SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE NEWS FOR SUNDAY 23 JANUARY 2022

Good morning and welcome to the weekly news bulletin of the South African Radio League read by ..... [your name, call sign and QTH]

The South African Radio League broadcasts a news bulletin each Sunday in Afrikaans and English at 08:15 and 08:30 Central African Time respectively on HF and various VHF and UHF repeaters around the country. The bulletin is relayed on Echolink by Johan, ZS6JPL. The audio bulletins can be downloaded from the League website at http://www.sarl.org.za while the text bulletin can be downloaded from https://sarlnewsbulletin.wordpress.com. To join the MailChimp bulletin mailing list, send an e-mail to the SARL Secretary.

In the news today:

ELECTRONIC VOTING FOR THE 2021 SARL ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

AMSATSA ANNOUNCES ANNUAL CONFERENCE DATE

and

SANDTON POWER HOUR TECH TALK WEDNESDAY 26 JAN

Stay tuned for more information on these and other interesting news items.

ELECTRONIC VOTING FOR THE 2021 SARL ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

In terms of Rule 8.9, the SARL Annual Financial Statements for the Year ended 30 June 2021 were uploaded to the SARL web site on Friday 21 January 2022. Members have thirty (30) days to consider the accounts, whereafter an electronic vote will take place from 00:01 CAT on Monday 21 February 2022 and will close at 23:59 CAT on Thursday 3 March 2022. Details about the voting will be published in SARL News closer to the time. Before downloading any document, please read the SARL Communication dated 21 January 2022 very carefully.

THE SARL VHF/UHF FM CONTEST

The SARL VHF/UHF FM contest will run from 12:00 to 16:00 UTC on Saturday 5 February 2022 and the aim is to promote activity on FM simplex frequencies on the following bands - 6 m from 51,500 to 51,550 MHz, 2 m from 145,500 to 145,575 MHz and 70 cm from 433,500 to 433,550 MHz. Clubs are encouraged to get their members to work greater distances than usual on simplex by operating portable/field stations and let their new members get the feeling of taking part in a contest. Full details can be found on pages 24 and 25 of the 2022 SARL Contest Manual.

AMSATSA ANNOUNCES ANNUAL CONFERENCE DATE

AMSATSA has announced the date for the association's 2022 Space Symposium. It will be held on Saturday 23 July 2022. The current planning is to present it as a virtual event on the Blue Jeans platform. There remains a possibility that it may be a hybrid event including a parallel physical face to face symposium in Johannesburg. Experience over the past two symposiums has shown that virtual events offer the opportunity for many more people to participate. This is likely to persist as the cost of travel and accommodation will probably not return to more affordable levels any time soon.

The theme of the symposium is "Space, the next frontier for expansion of amateur radio." The symposium programme will cover topics at the entry level of how to set up an inexpensive satellite station, how to get the most out of a hand-held transceiver to explore satellite communication and a more advanced level to doing space research with your own space weather station and how to get involved in building satellites.

Proposals for papers are invited. Each slot is 20 - 30 minutes plus a 10-minute Q&A period. The closing date for proposals is 31 March 2022. Authors will be advised of the acceptance of their paper by mid-April. Final presentations in Word and PowerPoint will be required by 1 July 2022. For more information send an e-mail to admin@amsatsa.org.za.

You are listening to a news bulletin of the South African Radio League.

SANDTON POWER HOUR TECH TALK WEDNESDAY 26 JANUARY

You heard it mentioned during the bulletins and now it is finally here, the Power Hour Tech Talk, going live on Wednesday evening with special guest Brian, NB7KW. Brian will be opening our eyes to the workings and usefulness of the Automated Packet Reporting System, which is more commonly known as APRS.

Everyone is welcome, so this is your invitation and reminder to connect to the Sandton 145.700 MHz repeater or ZS6STN-R via Echolink at 19:00 CAT on Wednesday 26 January, to listen and learn and to contribute to the stories and knowledge sharing. For more details, please visit the upcoming events diary forum on the SARL website.

AFRICUBE LAUNCH APPLICATION

AMSAT SA, in partnership with the UCT Space and Astronomy Society, have applied for a sponsored launch to the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) for their Access to Space for All programme. Access to Space for All is a joint initiative of UNOOSA and space agencies, research institutions and industry to offer access to space research facilities, infrastructure and information with the aim of developing technical know-how, engineering processes and infrastructure in the areas of hyper gravity and microgravity, satellite development and space exploration and to promote international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space. This is the second application. Last year the

group were not successful but were encouraged by UNOOSA to apply again this year.

AfriCUBE has been running on the test bench for the past six weeks and will, in the next few weeks, be tested on the air from Rooihuiskraal. Development of the control system software has reached an advanced stage and will be incorporated in the AfriCUBE on board computer to carry out practical evaluations. The control software will enable AfriCUBE to be programmed from the ground to place the satellite in a specific mode.

FOX HUNT SUNDAY 30 JANUARY

This is a reminder to everyone based in Gauteng for an outdoor hunting quest which is great fun and family friendly. Our secret sources have advised that there will be a Radio Fox hiding out within a 1,5 km radius of the parking area of the James and Ethel Gray Park in Melrose, and it is imperative that you find the fox in order for you to brag on 145,525 MHz.

The Fox has only one weakness, it sometimes sends out a coded radio signal on 144,525 MHz and this is the only time that it is vulnerable to being found. Sources advise that this will happen starting at 13:00 CAT next week Sunday 30 January. Who will win – you or the fox? Further clues available on the SARL upcoming events diary forum webpage.

PROPAGATION REPORT

Hannes Coetzee, ZS6BZP, reports that the solar activity is expected to be at low levels. There are currently various sunspots with simple magnetic configurations visible. The is a high probability of C class and a small probability of M-class flaring. If you want to do your own frequency predictions, the expected effective sunspot number for the week will be around 26. The 10 to 30 m bands will provide some good DX fun. Please visit the website spaceweather.sansa.org.za for further information.

Finally, a diary of some upcoming events:

24 January – the closing date for Club Contest logs

26 January – the Sandton ARC Talking Tech Power Hour

27 January – the closing date for QRP Logs

31 January – the closing date for AGM Motions and Award Nominations

01 February – the registration for May RAE opens

05 February – the SARL VHF/UHF Activity Day

06 February – the AWA CW Activity Day

11 February – the closing date for AWA CW Logs

12 February – the closing date for SARL VHF/UHF Contest logs

14 February – the closing date for PEARS VHF/UHF Contest logs

19 February – the SARL Saturday 40 m Club Contest

19 and 20 February – the ARRL International DX CW Contest

To conclude our bulletin, a recap of our main news story:

In terms of Rule 8.9, the SARL Annual Financial Statements for the Year ended 30 June 2021 were uploaded to the SARL web site on Friday 21 January 2022. Members have thirty (30) days to consider the accounts, whereafter an electronic vote will take place from 00:01 CAT on Monday 21 February 2022 and will close at 23:59 CAT on Thursday 3 March 2022. Details about the voting will be published in SARL News closer to the time. Before downloading any document, please read the SARL Communication dated 21 January 2022 very carefully.

This concludes our bulletin for this morning.

We invite clubs and individuals to submit news items of interest to radio amateurs and shortwave listeners, in both English and Afrikaans, if possible, by following the News Inbox link on the South African Radio League web page. News items to be included in the bulletin should reach the news team no later than the Friday preceding the bulletin date.

You are welcome to join us every Sunday morning for the weekly radio programme, Amateur Radio Today at 10:00 CAT. The programme can be heard on VHF and UHF repeaters countrywide and on 7 082 kHz lower side-band by courtesy of Louis, ZS5LP. A rebroadcast by Andy, ZS6ADY, can be heard on Monday evenings at 19:30 CAT on 3 620 kHz.

We welcome your signal reports, comments, and suggestions; please send these by e-mail to artoday@sarl.org.za.

You have listened to a news bulletin written by Andy Cairns ZS6ADY, proofread by Paul Johnson ZS1S and read by .....

From the news team, best wishes for the week ahead.